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IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Inventor(s): **Shervin Erfani**
Victor B Lawrence
Kazem A Sohraby

Case: **3-26-22**
Serial No.: **09/895948** Group Art Unit: **2613**
Filing Date: **June 29, 2001**
Examiner: **N. Curs**
Title: **Advanced Signaling System For Switcing And Control In Integrated Optical Networks**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

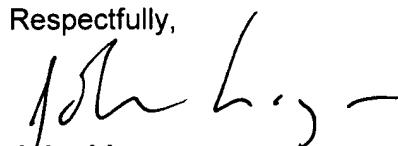
Response to Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief

SIR:

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief, dated November 28, 2007, in the above-referenced matter, the Applicants herewith submit a corrected Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter section of the previously filed Appeal Brief, as required by the Notice. Changes to the prior Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter section are indicated by standard amendment markings.

Should any question or problem arise in connection with this submission, a phone call to a Applicants' undersigned attorney at **(973) 386-4237** will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

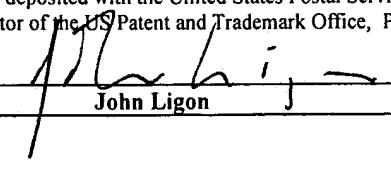


John Ligon
Attorney for the Applicant
Reg. No. 35,938
(973)-386-4237

Date: January 28, 2008

Docket Administrator (Room 2F-192)
Lucent Technologies Inc.
600-700 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974-0636

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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January 28, 2008



John Ligon

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Response to Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR 41.37)

SIR:

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated November 28, 2007, in the above-identified patent application, enclosed please find a corrected Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter section of the previously filed Appeal Brief, as required by the Notice.

In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 12-2325** as required to correct the error.

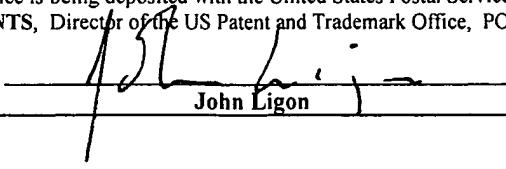
Respectfully,


John Ligon
Attorney for the Applicant
Reg. No. 35,938
(973)-386-4237

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John Ligon



ATTACHMENT

**Corrected "Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter"
For Appeal Brief In Application No. 09/89,5948**

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The invention claimed here is directed to an enhanced signaling system that operates to provide a signaling platform that is independent of the electronic and optical switching and transmission systems interconnected with an integrated optical network. In particular, the enhanced signaling system of the invention provides a signaling mechanism that allows any device interfaced to the optical network to be handled without the need to use the legacy signaling techniques of that device. A key feature of the invention is that of the signaling method and apparatus of the invention operating to process signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices, including networks/devices operating with electronic signaling, independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device. Thus the signaling can be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to the respective optical components rather than having signaling being accomplished through electrical connections as occurs in the prior art.

Independent apparatus claims 1, 11 and 19 are directed to particular embodiments of the enhanced signaling system of the invention. Claim 1 is directed to a signaling apparatus ~~operable in a communications switching system in an integrated optical network~~ comprising (1) a plurality of electrical signaling interfaces for receiving requests from external signaling networks, (2) a processing module for processing the requests from the external signaling networks, and (3) an optical signaling interface for coupling to optical components in an integrated optical network and operable to transmit processed requests from the processing module for assignment of optical channels for the optical components. Claim 1 further includes a limitation directed to the feature of the invention whereby signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices is processed independently of the legacy

signaling techniques of the external network or device, thereby permitting the signaling to be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to respective optical components. Independent apparatus claim 11 includes substantially comparable limitations to those of claim 1, except that the processing module of claim 1 is further defined in terms of (1) a signaling and call control module, (2) a signaling and endpoint applications module and (3) a network management and provisioning module. Independent apparatus claim 19 includes substantially comparable limitations to those of claim 1 with additional limitations directed to an optical service node coupled to the optical signaling interface and including (1) an optical cross connect and (2) an optical add/drop multiplexer. Independent method claim 16 is directed to steps for carrying out the process of the enhanced signaling system of the invention including (1) receiving requests from external signaling networks at an electrical signaling interface, (2) processing the requests from the external signaling network and (3) transmitting the processed requests via an optical signaling interface that couples to optical components in an integrated optical network for assignment of optical channels. ~~a signaling method for operation in a switching system and incorporating the feature of the invention~~ Claim 16 further includes a limitation directed to the feature of the invention whereby signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices is processed independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device, thereby permitting the signaling to be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to respective optical components.

The features of the claims as set forth above are fully described in the specification at paragraphs 0019 through 0034 of the published application (US 2003/0002103). The functionality of the enhanced signaling system of the invention is described in further detail at

paragraphs 0039 through 0047 of the published application. The unique feature of the invention respecting the processing of signaling information independently of legacy signaling techniques is particularly described at paragraph 0022 and 0046-0047. page 6, line 1 through page 7, line 6, and particularly at page 6, lines 1-5 and page 6, lines 16-18. Each of the independent claims was amended during the prior prosecution to include a limitation clearly addressed to this feature of the invention.